

Gopinath (1953) has described a fishing method in the backwaters of Travancore, in which a rope fitted with coconut palm leaves is employed as a scareline and the fish *Eutroplus suratensis* and *Garres* sp. are grabbed by hand. Further, Karamchandani & Pandit (1967) have given an account of collecting fingerlings of *Tor tor*, *Tor putitora*, *Labeo fimbriatus* and *Labeo dyocheilus*, *Labeo bata*, *Cirrhina reba*, *Puntius sarana*, *Barilius bendelisis*, *Oxygaster clupeoides* and *Danio* sp., which are trapped in a composite net made of two cast nets, by dragging the scare line in shallow regions of the river Narbada. This method of capturing cobitids is very interesting to observe. Perhaps this is the only area in Mysore State where cobitids are being utilised as food. The coarse fishes are neglected and their fisheries has not developed to the desired extent elsewhere, which may be attributed to lack of efficient gear. The bottom dwelling cobitid fish are quite abundant in shallow areas of the rivers and there is no other fishing gear known to capture cobitids other than 'Kallu-sara' scare line.

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October 6, 1969.

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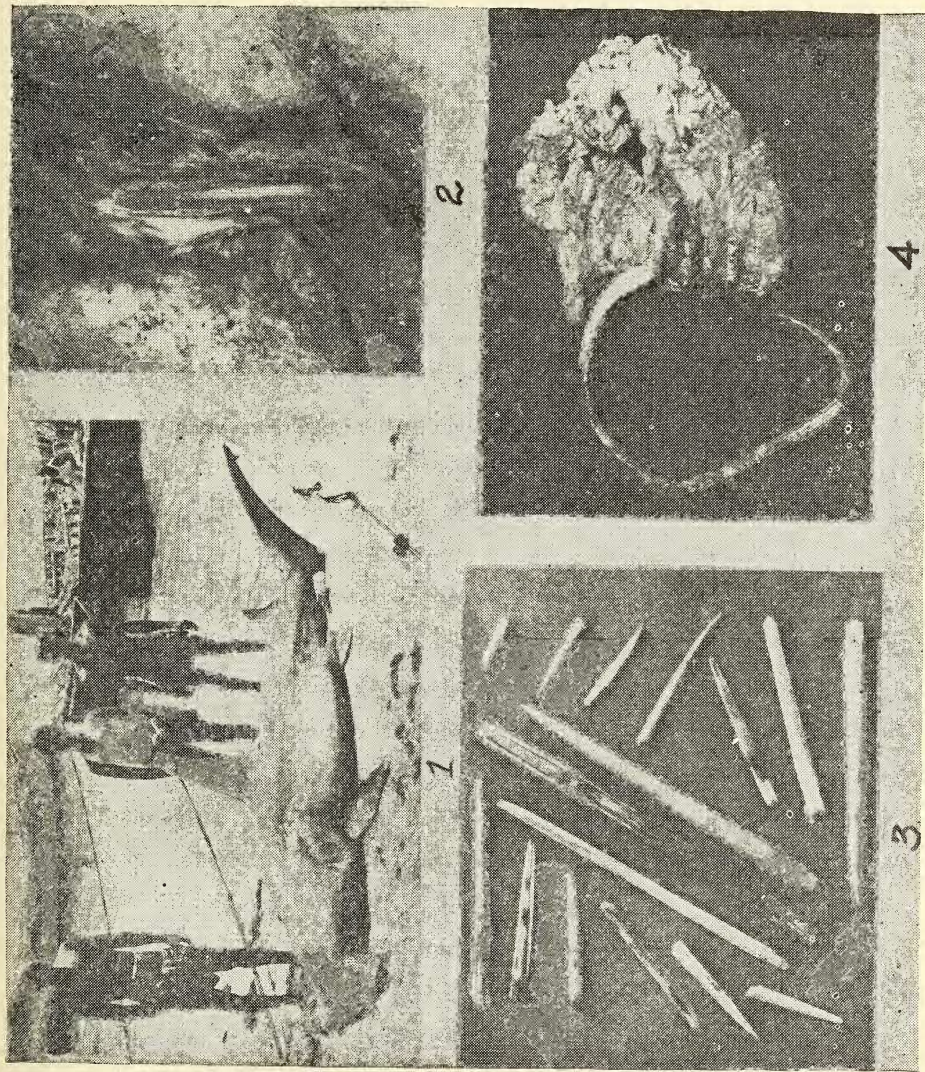
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12. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF STING-RAY SPINES IN THE JAWS AND GILLS OF THE HAMMERHEAD SHARK *SPHYRNA ZYGAENA* (LINNAEUS)

(With a plate)

It is well-known that sharks are voracious feeders and prey upon a wide variety of marine animals such as planktonic crustaceans, crabs, molluscs, fishes, turtles and seals. While examining a specimen of



PHOTOS: 1. *Sphyrna zygaena* landed at Tuticorin north landing centre; 2. A spine *in situ* in the upper jaw; 3. A group of spines collected from the jaws and gills of *S. zygaena*. (The brownish-black stain caused by the blood of *S. zygaena* is clearly seen in some of the spines); 4. A semi-digested specimen of *Himantura alcockii* recovered from the stomach.

